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Forty-ninth session
Item 104 (c) of the preliminary list*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 28 February 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the English and French versions of a declaration of the European Union on the Sudan, issued on 21 February 1994 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 104 (c) of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Antonios EXARCHOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Greece
to the United Nations

* A/49/50.

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Declaration of the European Union on the Sudan, issued on 21 February 1994

The European Union remains deeply concerned at the suffering being inflicted on the Sudanese people by the continuing civil war and the ever-worsening human rights situation in the Sudan. The Union therefore condemns the current bombings by the Sudanese air force, which are harming the civilian population and causing a mass exodus to neighbouring countries. Consequently, the European Union would urge the parties to implement an immediate cease-fire as the first step towards a negotiated overall settlement.

Such military action against a population already sorely tried by the conflict in southern Sudan is unacceptable, particularly since it constitutes an inadmissible obstacle to humanitarian aid. The European Union has frequently impressed on all parties to the conflict the negative effects of their military activities and the fact that they are therefore primarily responsible for the fate of the Sudanese people. The Union stresses the major effort which the international community, including the European Union, has been making for a long time to assist those sectors of the population which are victims of the violence.

The European Union remains prepared to hold a frank dialogue with the Sudanese authorities on all the political and humanitarian concerns of the international community. It also intends to continue its talks with the factions in the south of the country in the interests of peace.

The European Union urges the Sudanese Government and all parties involved to make a serious effort to achieve a negotiated solution to the conflict between them. In this connection, it is fully backing the diplomatic efforts being made under the aegis of the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development (IGADD) by the four heads of State in the region.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Item 26 of the preliminary list*
COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN
MILITARY FORCES FROM THE
TERRITORIES OF THE BALTIC STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 3 March 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of a statement dated 3 March 1994 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania in response to a statement released by the Russian Federation on 2 March 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 26 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Anicetas SIMUTIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/49/50.

Annex

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Lithuania

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, closely following the course of negotiations between Estonia and the Russian Federation, is greatly concerned by the Russian statement of 2 March 1994, in which the Russian Federation indicates its refusal to withdraw its military forces from the territory of the Republic of Estonia by the date previously agreed upon by the two sides (31 August 1994), and its intention instead to follow its own determined timetable.

The Republic of Lithuania reaffirms its position that the withdrawal of Russian military forces from Estonia and Latvia must comply with the requirements of the international community, as defined by General Assembly resolutions and paragraph 15 of the "Helsinki Document 1992 - the Challenges of Change", adopted by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Lithuania fully supports Estonian efforts to secure the most rapid possible withdrawal of Russian military forces, and expresses its hope that both sides will find mutually acceptable means to renew negotiations, leading to a withdrawal of Russian military forces from Estonia by 31 August 1994.

Vilnius, 3 March 1994

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Items 72, 88 and 96 of the preliminary list*
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR
AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 2 March 1994 from the representatives of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the joint communiqué of the First Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and External Relations of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries, which was held at Brasília on 9 and 10 February 1994, with the participation of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 72, 88 and 96 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ambassador Afonso VAN DUNEN "MBINDA"
Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations

(Signed) Ambassador Pedro CATARINO
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

(Signed) Ambassador Ronaldo Mota SARDENBERG
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

* A/49/50.

(Signed) Mr. Jorge Maria CUSTODIO dos SANTOS
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent
Mission of Cape Verde to the United Nations

(Signed) Mrs. Manuela LOPES da ROSA
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent
Mission of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations

(Signed) Mr. Filipe CHIDUMO
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent
Mission of Mozambique to the United Nations

(Signed) Mr. Domingos Augusto FERREIRA
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent
Mission of Sao Tome and Principe to the
United Nations

ANNEX

Joint communiqué adopted at Brasília on 10 February 1994 by the First Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and External Relations of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries

The Ministers

for External Relations of Brazil, Mr. Celso L. N. Amorim,

for Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde, Mr. Manuel Casimiro de Jesus Chantre,

for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Guinea-Bissau, Mr. Bernardino Cardoso,

for Foreign Affairs of Mozambique, Mr. Pascoal Mocumbi,

for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Mr. José Manuel Durão Barroso,

for Foreign Affairs of Sao Tome and Principe, Mr. Albertino Bragança, and

the Director of the Americas Department of the Ministry for External Relations of Angola, Ambassador João Felipe Martins, representing the Minister for External Relations of Angola,

Having met at Brasília on 10 February 1994 for an exchange of views on the community of Portuguese-speaking countries,

Considering that the idea of the creation of the community of Portuguese-speaking countries derives spontaneously from civil society, on the basis of a common language that has forged special relations among seven countries,

Considering that the seven countries share universal values, such as those of democratic ideals, respect for human rights, repudiation of racism and the traditional principles of coexistence among States,

Considering that the initiative of the establishment of the community reflects the consensus recognition by the participating Governments of the need to give concrete expression to an existing reality, which also confers a distinct identity to the seven States in the current international scenario,

Considering that the current international context has opened up new possibilities for initiatives of open and non-exclusive association among countries with similar values and interests,

Considering that, through the mechanism of political and diplomatic concertation to be established within the community, a more active presence of the seven countries in international forums will be assured,

1. Reaffirmed the intention of their Governments to support the establishment of the community of Portuguese-speaking countries, conceived as a

privileged forum for the strengthening of mutual friendship and for the establishment of an agenda of cooperation among Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe;

2. For the implementation of this initiative, agreed upon the following:

(a) To recommend to their Governments the holding, in the first half of 1994, of a summit meeting at Lisbon, which would bring together the Heads of State and/or Government of the seven countries, with the aim of adopting the constituent act of the community;

(b) To make efforts - on the basis of the most absolute solidarity and with respect for national specificities - towards making the community of Portuguese-speaking countries an instrument of political concertation and of cooperation in the social, cultural and economic fields;

(c) To recommend to the Governments of the seven countries that they make every effort to facilitate the establishment - as soon as possible - of an international institute of the Portuguese language;

(d) To underscore the importance of the development of interparliamentary cooperation activities among the legislative organs of the countries of the community and of the eventual establishment of a parliament of Portuguese-speaking countries;

(e) To stimulate the consideration of economic and commercial cooperation mechanisms, with a view to promoting reciprocal exchanges and investments, with the wide participation of the private sector and of international organizations with these aims;

(f) To recommend the enhancement of existing inter-university cooperation and the strengthening of discussions on the establishment of a university of the seven;

(g) To support the development of a regional cooperation project for the promotion of the book and of reading in the five African countries with Portuguese as their official language, to be called the bibliographic fund of the Portuguese language, with its headquarters at Maputo;

(h) To support the immediate and effective cease-fire in Angola and to express the certainty that peace will only be lasting if it is achieved in strict respect of the Bicesse Agreements and of the results of the free and fair elections of September 1992;

(i) To encourage the implementation of the Rome Agreements, national reconciliation and the consolidation of democratic order in Mozambique;

(j) To recommend the establishment of a commission with the mandate of mobilizing and coordinating the efforts towards the reconstruction of Angola and Mozambique;

(k) To reiterate that the question of East Timor must be solved in conformity with the norms and principles of international law and with respect for human rights;

(l) To establish a working group for permanent concertation at Lisbon, within the framework of the preparations for the summit meeting, composed of the Ambassadors of the six countries accredited to the Government of Portugal and of a high official of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Portugal;

(m) To meet at Lisbon immediately preceding the summit meeting.